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Q.1

BASIC BELIEFS OF ISLAM

1. INTRODUCTION:

Islam is not just a religion but a complete way of life that guides both personal conduct and social interactions. At its heart, Islam emphasizes the belief in one God, accountability for one's actions and the pursuit of moral and spiritual excellence. The Islamic faith is built upon five fundamental beliefs, which form the foundation of a Muslim's behaviour. These beliefs not only shape the spiritual life of an individual but also provide ethical guidance that reforms human behaviour, fosters justice and strengthens the moral fabric of society. By internalizing these principles, Muslims are encouraged to lead purposeful lives in preparation for the eternal Hereafter while contributing positively.

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to the world around them.

2. FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS OF ISLAM:

The foundation of Islam rests on faith, which is based on five core beliefs

أشيت الله ومملكته و
كتبه فرسوله واليوم
الآخر والقدر

"I believe in Allah and His angels and in His book and His Messengers and in the Last Day and in the fact that everything good or bad is decided by Allah"

(Surah Nisa: 136)

2.1 Belief in Allah:

The central tenet of Islam is monotheism, affirming that Allah is the sole Creator, Sustainer and Controller of Universe. The Quran says,

"Say, He is Allah, (who is) One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge.

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He neither begets nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent".

(Surah Akhlas, 1-4)

2.2 Belief in Angels:

Angels are spiritual beings who execute Allah's commands, record human deeds and guide humanity. As written in Quran,

"The angels exalt Allah with praise of their Lord and ask forgiveness for those on earth."

(Surah Ash-Shura: 5)

2.3 Belief in Divine Books:

Allah revealed guidance through scriptures, including the Quran, Torah, Psalms and Gospel. The Quran is the final and complete revelation. As Allah says in the Quran,

"Today I have perfected for you, your religion; Completed upon you my favor; And chosen for you Islam as deen"

(Surah Maida: 3)

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2.4 Belief in Prophets:

Prophets are chosen individuals who convey Allah's message to humanity. Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the final prophet.

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the prophets"

(Surah Al-Ahzab: 40)

2.5 Belief in Divine Decree:

Everything occurs according to Allah's knowledge and will, while humans are responsible for their actions. Allah says in Quran:

"Indeed, all things we created with predestination"

(Surah Al-Qamar: 49)

2.6 Belief in the Day of Judgement:

Every human being will be held accountable for their deeds, leading to reward or punishment. In Quran it is written,

"So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it"

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and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it"

(Surah Al-Zalzalah: 7-8)

Similarly, Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) while referring to the Last Day / Akhirah said,

"You will have to die like you sleep and you will have to get up as you wake"

(Sahih Bukhari)

2.6.1 Stages of Hereafter:

- First horn of Trumpet:

The first horn of Trumpet shall end the world and cause total annihilation of humankind and their habitat.

- Second horn of Trumpet:

With the second horn of Trumpet, the dead shall be resurrected at once. As is written in Quran:

"Surely, the day of decision is appointed - the day when the trumpet is blown, so you will come forth in host"

(Surah Al-Naba, 17-18)

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2.6.2 Human Abodes in the Hereafter:

- Jannah/ Heaven:

It is the abiding place of the righteous in the Hereafter. The paradise is described as a garden with rivers of milk and honey flowing through it.

"No soul knows what refreshment is hidden for them: a reward for what they did"

(Al-Quran)

- Jahannam/Hell:

It is described in Quran by different names and is the abiding place of the wrongdoers. The most frequently used terms for hell in Quran is Jahim and Huqqa which means 'furious fire' and 'vehement fire'. It basically describes a state of utter despair, disgrace and burning.

3. IMPACTS OF THESE BELIEFS ON INDIVIDUAL:

3.1 Moral Discipline:

Faith in Allah and accountability ensures

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honesty, integrity and ethical conduct.

3.2 Spiritual Peace:

Trust in Allah reduces anxiety and promotes patience in trials.

3.3 Purposeful Life

Awareness of Alchirah encourages meaningful living and responsible actions.

3.4 Self-Control:

Fear of divine judgement helps curb sinful behaviour and promotes self-restraint.

3.5 Compassion and Charity:

Belief in reward motivates generosity, kindness and helping others.

4- IMPACTS OF THESE BELIEFS ON SOCIETY:

4.1 Justice and Equity:

Individual ethical behaviour fosters fairness and discourages corruption in society.

4.2 Social Welfare:

Emphasis on charity and social responsibility reduces poverty and inequality.

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4.3 Peaceful Coexistence:

Shared moral and spiritual values encourage respect, tolerance and harmony.

4.4 Strong Community bonds:

Collective worship, social obligations and mutual accountability strengthen societal cohesion.

5. CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Islam provides a complete framework for personal and social life of an individual through its core beliefs. By following the principles internalized in these beliefs, Islam provides a pathway to individuals for ethical living, spiritual fulfillment and a balanced, just community.

Q.2

SALAT & ITS IMPACTS

1. INTRODUCTION:

Salat or Islamic prayer is one of the five pillars of Islam and represents

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a direct link between a believer and Allah. It is performed five times daily at prescribed times. Salat is just a ritual but a holistic practice that instills discipline, mindfulness and devotion in an individual. It serves as a constant reminder of human responsibilities, moral conduct and social harmony, leading to the creation of a balanced and integrated society.

2. Definition and Lexicology:

- Salat is defined as

"A compulsory, ritualized practice in which Muslims pray to Allah five times a day"

- The word 'Salat' has lexicological roots in س-ل-ط, which means "Bonding" and "Stretching".

3. IMPORTANCE OF SALAT OUTLINED IN QURAN AND HADEES:

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Allah says in the Quran,

واقیموا الصلوة و اتوا الزکوة

"And establish prayer and give Zakat and bow with those who bow"

(Surah Baqra: 43)

Similarly, it is written in Quran:

"And seek help through patience and prayer"

(Surah Baqrah: 45)

Prophet (P.B.U.H), while emphasizing the importance of Salat said.

"The first thing that Allah made obligatory upon my Ummah were the five prayers; and the first thing from their acts of worship that shall be taken up with them will be the five prayers; and the first thing that they will be questioned about

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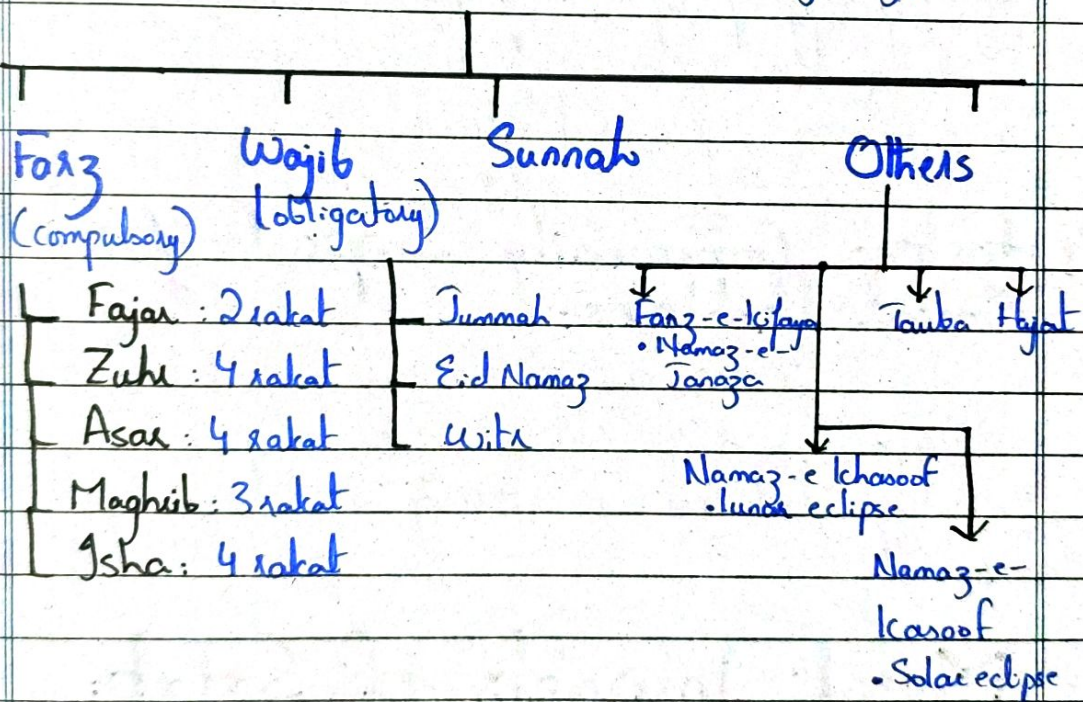
will be the five prayers"

Similarly, the Prophet (P.B.U.H), at another occasion said,

"The difference between a believer and a disbeliever is Salat"

4- TYPES OF SALAT

Salat, in Islam, are of following types



5. SOCIAL IMPACTS OF SALAT

5.1 Promotes Unity and Brotherhood:

Congregational prayers in mosques encourage social interaction and unity among Muslims, reducing social isolation and

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fostering brotherhood. Prophet Muhammad (P.B. U.H.) said,

"Prayer in congregation is twenty-seven times superior to one offered alone" (Sahih Bukhari)

5.2 Encourages Discipline and Time Management

The fixed prayer times structure daily life, teaching punctuality and responsibility, which benefits social functioning.

5.3 Strengthens Family Bonds:

Performing prayers together at home strengthens family ties and encourages mutual respect and shared spiritual growth.

5.4 Fosters Community Support for Social Problems:

Salat serves as a reminder of social obligations like Zakat and helping the needy, fostering a caring and supportive society.

6. Moral Impacts of Salat:

6.1 Instills honesty and integrity:

Salat reminds individuals of accountability to Allah, encouraging truthfulness in personal and professional life.

6.2 Reduces immorality and sinful behaviour:

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As mentioned in Quran

"Indeed, prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds"

6.3 Encourages Patience and Perseverance:

Regular adherence to prayer fosters patience, particularly during hardships, reinforcing moral resilience.

6.4 Strengthens Accountability:

Knowing that Allah observes every action, believers develop a strong sense of ethical responsibility.

7- SPIRITUAL IMPACTS OF SALAT:

7.1 Deepens Connection with Allah:

Salat is a direct communication with Allah, cultivating dependence and spiritual tranquility. Prophet (P.B.U.H) said,

"The closest a servant is to his Lord is when he is prostrating" (Sahih Muslim)

7.2 Purifies the Soul:

Regular prayers cleanse the heart from spiritual weaknesses like arrogance and greed.

7.3 Reduces Anxiety and Stress:

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Engaging in mindful prayers provides inner peace, reduces worry and fosters mental stability.

7.5 Strengthens Faith and Taqwa:

Continuous engagement in Salat increases mindfulness of Allah, reinforcing spiritual discipline and ethical living.

8. CONCLUSION:

In summary, Salat is far more than a ritual act; it shapes the social, moral and spiritual fabric of a believer's life. By fostering discipline, ethical behaviour and spiritual connection, it guides Muslims toward a balanced and harmonious life in both worldly and spiritual spheres.

Q.5

1. INTRODUCTION:

Ijtihad refers to the process of independent reasoning in Islamic jurisprudence to derive legal rulings in cases where the Quran and Sunnah do not provide explicit guidance.

In today's world, the practice of Ijtihad can play a vital role not only in strengthening the cohesion of Muslim community but also in contributing to the social, moral and intellectual advancement of society at large.

2- Decoding the term "Ijtihad":

Ijtihad literally means "to strive", 'to seek truth' and "one's opinion on a specific issue". Conversely, it means the process of reaching a conclusion by considering all data of reasoning and revelation. As 'Maulana Maududi', in his book "Tajdeed - o - Ihya-e-Deen said,

"Ijtihad is method of using reasoning within the limits prescribed by Quran and Sunnah to resolve new issues"

3- Importance of Ijtihad in the light of Quran & Sunnah:

Allah says in the Quran:

"O you people who believe, Obey Allah and Obey the messenger and those of you who are in authority; if you have a dispute concerning any matter refer it to Allah and messenger if you are believers in Allah and the Last Day."

(Surah An-Nisa, Verse 59)

A famous saying of Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is generally considered to be the authentic source of ijtihad is as follows:

On appointing Hazrat Maaz bin Jabal as the Governor of Yemen, Prophet asked him about the rule he would adjudicate, he replied:

"By the law of Quran"
 Prophet then asked, "if you cannot find any direction in Quran, then how would you?" He replied, "I will apply the hadith/Sunnah"
 Prophet then asked, "If you cannot find any guidance in Sunnah as well" upon which he replied "I will exercise my judgement and act on it." On hearing this, Prophet raised his arms and said, "Praise be to Allah who guides his messengers as He pleases"

(Sahih Bulchag)

§- Scope of Ijtihad:

It can be done in two scenarios:

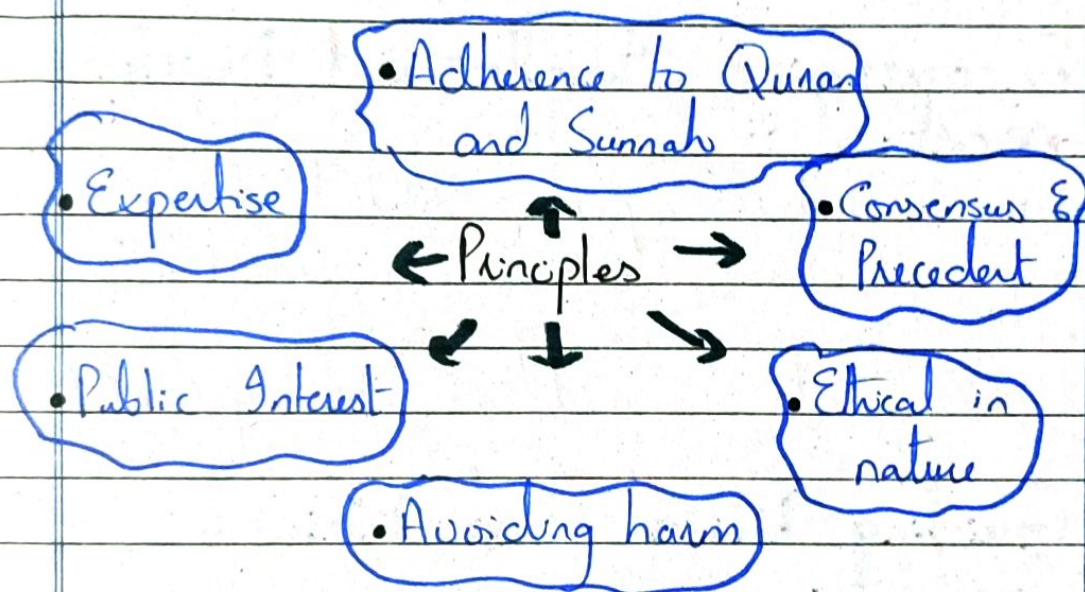
I- In order to interpret the meaning and

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wording of text; its generalities and particularities.

2. When Quran and Sunnah are silent on any issue.

5. PRINCIPLES OF ISTEHAD:



6. ISTEHAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSLIM UMMAH.

6.1 Addressing Contemporary Issues with Shariah Principles:

IsteHAD allows scholars to interpret Islamic teachings in ways that respond to modern challenges, such as bioethics, finance, environmental issues and technology.

Example: Interest-free banking have been developed through IsteHAD.

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6.2 Promoting Unity Through Contextual Solutions:

The Ummah is diverse, comprising multiple cultures, languages and traditions. Ijtihad provides a mechanism for adapting rulings to local contexts without compromising core principles.

6.3 Encouraging Intellectual Development:

When scholars engage in Ijtihad, they inspire education, scientific inquiry and ethical reasoning among individuals. A knowledgeable Ummah is a strong Ummah.

6.4 Guiding Moral and Ethical Conduct:

Through Ijtihad, Islamic law can provide guidance for ethical dilemmas that arise in modern life such as in medicine and digital ethics.

6.5 Strengthening Social Justice and Governance:

Ijtihad can be applied to reform legal and political structures in Muslim societies to ensure justice and equality.

7- IJTEHAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY

7.1 Promoting Universal Ethical Values

Jilchad offers humanity a moral framework that transcends cultural and religious boundaries.

7.2 Encouraging Dialogue and Cooperation:

Through Jilchad, Scholars can address interfaith and intercultural differences/challenges in a reasoned manner.

7.3 Adapting Religion to Social Progress:

Through Jilchad, Islam can interact constructively with modern science, technology and social change.

7.4 Solving Emerging Human Challenges:

Issues such as climate change, genetic engineering and pandemics require moral guidance. Jilchad provides a method to apply Islamic principles to these modern dilemmas.

8. CONCLUSION

Jilchad is a dynamic instrument that ensures continuity and relevance of Islam in every era. Through it, Muslim Ummah can remain united and intellectually vibrant, contributing positively to the broader concerns of humanity.